

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT The Slovene Christian Socialist Party

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1. Before the last war, the Slovene Christian Socialist Party was represented in an association called Strokovna Zveza and published a party paper called Delavska Pravica. The intellectuals among the Christian Socialists also published the journal, Dom in Svet. Bitter antagonism existed between the Christian Socialists and the SIS (Slovene Peoples Party), and until the final break between SIS and the Christian Socialists during the parliamentary elections in 1938, the Christian Socialists supported SIS policy only with strong reservations.
2. After the Yugoslav collapse in 1941, Edward Kocbek, leader of the Christian Socialists, together with the lawyers, Dr. Ales Stanovnik (later assassinated by the Italians) and Dr. Marjan Breclj, joined the Yugoslav Communists in the OF coalition. In 1941 and early 1942 the majority of partisans fighting against the Germans and Italians came from the ranks of unions sponsored by the Christian Socialists. Also, during 1943 and 1944, Tito partisans in the Upper-Kranj regions wore crosses and holy medals instead of a red star on their caps.
3. Through collaborating with the Communists during the entire war and after, the Christian Socialists began early in 1947 to reactivate their original program. They had finally realized that their domestic and foreign policy was at variance with that of the Communists and, furthermore, they were convinced of the complete failure of Tito's Five-Year Plan. Thus the Christian Socialists became hostile to the present Yugoslav regime.
4. About mid-March 1948, Kocbek, now vice-president of the Slovene Presidium, held a secret meeting at his Ljubljana apartment at which the most trusted Christian Socialists were present. Although exact details of this meeting are not known, it is believed that important domestic and foreign political questions were discussed. The following personalities attended this meeting:

Mahnic, Josko, assistant to Dr. Anton Ocvirk of Ljubljana University.

Mahnic, Mirko, formerly professor at the Jesenice high school; released from his position because of his teaching did not conform to Communist principles. After he refused to vindicate himself before a Slovene Communist Party committee in Jesenice, he was dismissed by the Slovene Ministry of Culture and Education.

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Brecelj, Dr. Marjan, present Deputy Prime Minister and Slovene Ministry of Industry.

Pokorn, Dr. Josko, Slovene Minister of Justice.

Potocnik, Dr. Miha, Slovene Deputy Minister of Industry and former director of the KID Combine in Jesenice.

Fajfar, Tone, Slovene Minister of Lumber Industry.

Brecelj, Dr. Bogdan, Medical doctor, and a parliamentary delegate representing the district of Ajdovscina.

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